THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 9th December 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I will take up the privilege motion after the question hour. I have placed before the House about forty questions and I hope to finish them all within the question hour with the co-operation of hon. Members.

" Now we can take up Short Notice questions Nos. 283, 290 and 292 together as all of them are allied questions."

Strike in the Standard Clay and Tile Works Factory, Feroke, Malabar.

* 283 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there has been continued victimization and dismissal of workers by the Manager, Standard Clay and Tile Works, Feroke, Malabar, resulting in a strike from 1st December 1954; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Government have referred for adjudication the dispute relating to the retrenchment of 37 workers by the management."

Retrenchment in the Standard Clay and Tile Works, Feroke, South Malabar.

* 290 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the management of the Standard Clay and Tile Works, Feroke, South Malabar, retrenched 37 workers on 18th November 1954, violating the provisions especially of section 33 of the Industrial Disputes Act; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) It is a fact that the management retrenched 37 workers on the 18th November 1954. The question whether the retrenchment was justified is the subject of adjudication.

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" (b) The Government have referred the dispute relating to the retrenchment of the workers for adjudication."

Maintenance of muster roll for workers by the tile factories in Feroke, South Malabar.

* 292 *Q*.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN :- Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Commonwealth Tile Factory, Standard Tile and Clay Works, Malabar Tile Works and some other tile factories in Feroke, South Malabar, do not keep muster roll for workers according to section 25 (*d*) of the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947 as amended in 1953; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information. A report is being called for from local officers and suitable action will be taken, if necessary."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, in view of the fact that the Hon. Minister has referred the dismissal of 37 workers for adjudication, may I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that the Tile and Clay Works at Feroke had violated the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, namely, sections 25 (*f*) and 25 (*g*) inasmuch as the management had dismissed 158 workers till the 17th May 1954 and whether any action has been taken on the matter or whether the dismissals during that period is one of the items pending before the court of adjudication? May I also know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that while a conciliation proceeding was pending before the Conciliation Officer with regard to the dismissal of these 158 workers, these 37 workers were dismissed, and if so, what action do the Government propose to take in respect of that matter? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the present question relates to the retrenchment of 37 workers and I have stated that this matter is before the adjudication court."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" Sir, in view of the fact that there has been a *prima facie* case for referring the dispute for adjudication, will the Government consider the question of instructing the management to put these workers back on duty pending the result of the adjudication? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, Government have also information that a strike is going on. May I ask the hon. Member whether he would give an undertaking on behalf of the workers that the strike will be immediately called off? "